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# Memory

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## *Luljeta Lleshanaku*

### MEMORY

There is no prophecy, only memory.  
What happens tomorrow  
has happened a thousand years ago  
the same way, to the same end—  
and does my ancient memory  
say that your false memory  
is the history of the featherhearted bird  
transformed into a crow atop a marble mountain?  
The same woman will be there  
on the path to reincarnation  
her cage of black hair  
her generous and bitter heart  
like an amphora full of serpents.

There is no prophecy, things happen  
as they have before—  
death finds you in the same bed  
lonely and without sorrow, shadowless  
as trees wet with night.

There is no destiny, only rules of biology:  
fish splash in water  
pine trees breathe on mountains.

*Translated by Albana Lleshanaku and Henry Israeli*